

## Does the Quality of Education Today Depend on the Number of Students?

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**Abstract:** This article suggests that as a subproblem of improving the quality of education at school, the perception of the level of knowledge and professional skills of the teacher, as well as the abundance of students in the classroom are perceived as a subject problem that can negatively affect the quality of education.

**Keywords:** Education, school, class, teacher, student, specialist, lesson, quantity, quality, knowledge, assessment, program.

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**INTRODUCTION.** The quality of education is a multifaceted concept, which includes many components related to the training of teachers, their professional competence and the organization of the educational process in the educational institution, in particular, the number of students. Students' age, interests, outcomes, perceptions, family background, and income are important factors in perceiving the quality of individual education. According to some researchers, the number of students in a class affects the classroom environment, learning activities, student activity, and consequently student mastery.

In the world, the question of whether schooling will always lead to better results with fewer students in the classroom has been the subject of much debate, and it has become a tradition to debate what the number of students in a class will be. However, there are no international norms and data showing that the low number of students in the classroom is the main reason for improving the quality of education. In addition, it is suggested that the funds allocated for expenses related to the number of students in the class can be spent in other areas.

**LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY.** "In fact, the highest quality and most effective education system is in PISA member countries, where teachers prefer high-quality teaching and quality teaching, which is, as a rule, not to reduce the number of students in the classroom, but the quality of teachers. and they always have to choose between investing in small classes or teachers, and prefer to invest in teachers. "

Despite the lack of evidence to support the preferences of a small number of students in the classroom, many countries continue to consider this a priority. Teachers, parents, and all those involved in education want the number of students in the classroom to be low because they see it

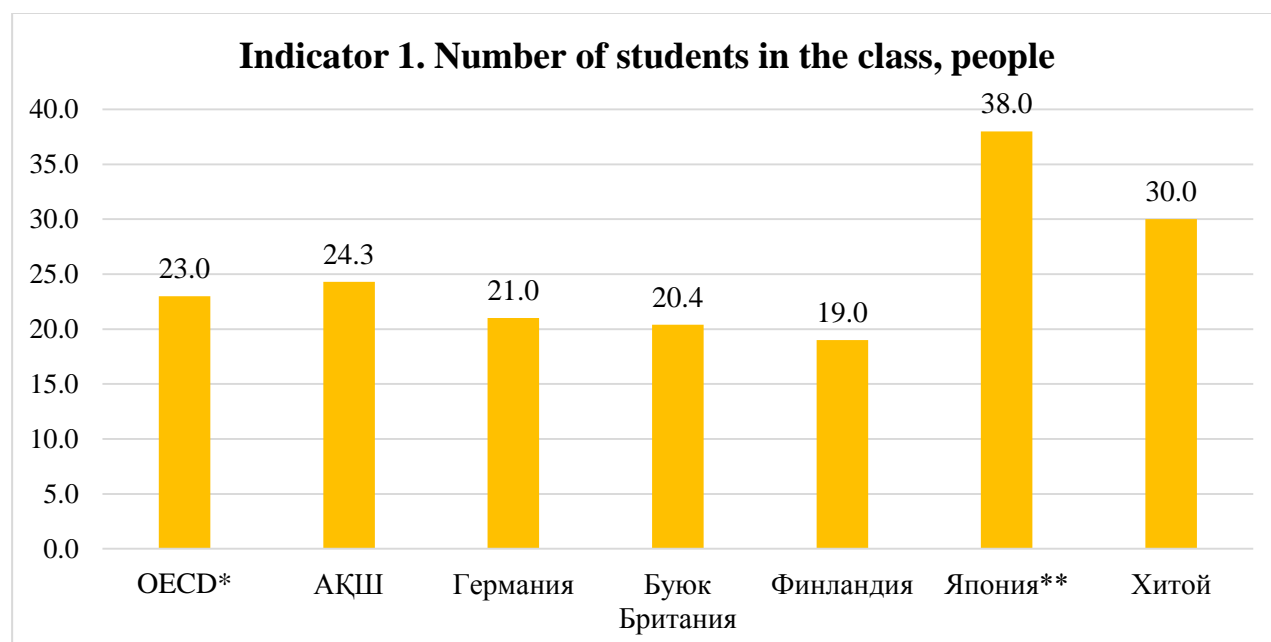
as a more effective and individual means of learning. Between 2005 and 2014, governments in OECD countries were forced to reduce the number of students in the primary grades by an average of 6% due to broad public demand and changes in demographics.

**DISCUSSION.** According to the data, the reduction in the number of students in the classroom opens up opportunities for new and more effective teaching methodologies, as well as, in different contexts, the small size of the classes leads to good results. But often this situation is misinterpreted. Reducing the number of students in a class is said to increase teachers' salaries, allowing them to do more work not only to teach or to increase students' study time.

Overall, the analysis of the research shows that students in low-achieving classes perform better in all subjects and in all assessments than their peers in a class with more students. In classes with low enrollment, students are one to two months ahead in terms of content knowledge, and they receive high marks in assessment. If there are less than 20 students in a class, it often leads to individual attention, increased activity, and improved communication between teacher and students. The researchers found that when teachers worked with fewer students in the classroom, there were fewer disciplinary problems, fewer interruptions, and more efficiency in completing individualized instructions and assignments.

The main advantage of teaching classes with a large number of students in a secondary school is that the lesson is usually high in energy, fun and exciting, the lessons are fast and rarely boring. When there are fewer children in the class, it becomes more difficult for students to hide behaviors that are not relevant to the lesson. In any classroom with a small number of students, the teacher is distinguished by his closeness to all students.

At the same time, the foreign education system, the current situation in them, ie the number of students in the class was studied (indicator 1).



\* Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

\*\* There are 2 teachers in each class.

Source: Author's development based on surveys.

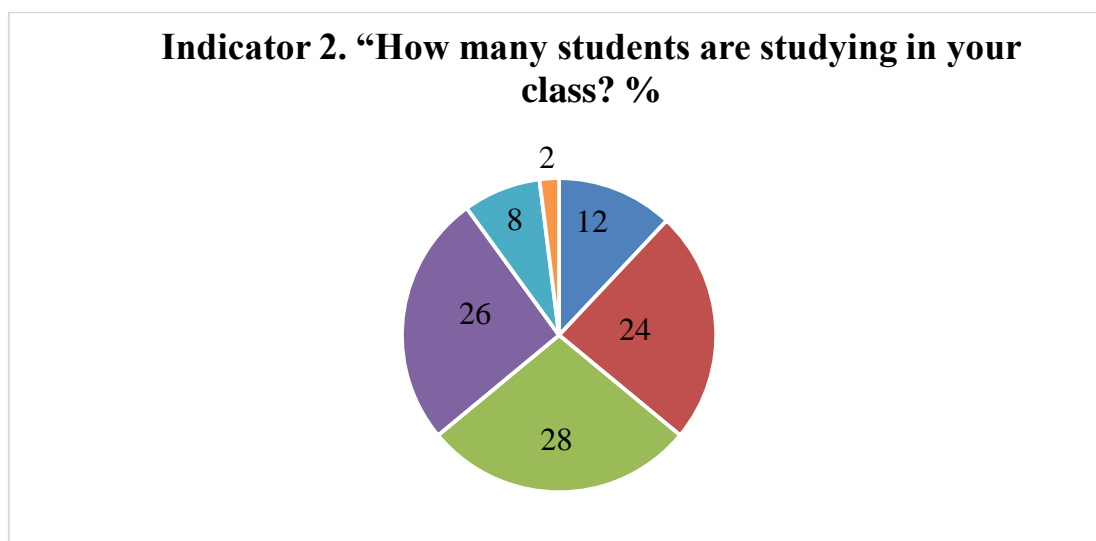
According to the analysis, the number of students in a class is on average up to 30 in China, while there are 3 students in a rural school in its most remote area. The minimum number of students is an average of 19 in Finnish classes, and in order to become a school teacher in Finland it is necessary to pass a very strict selection: the best students-graduates of pedagogical education specialties are employed in schools around 12%. Another positive aspect of the Finnish education system is the priority given to teaching in small groups. This will undoubtedly

lead to a higher quality of education. The success of school education in the country is also related to the school student support system. In terms of the number of social workers and psychologists in the share of employment in the total economy in Finland, it occupies one of the leading positions among all European countries.

While up to 23 students study in OECD member countries, another feature of Japanese school education is that the average number of students in a class is 38, with 2 teachers per class.

So what is this figure in our country? "How many students are studying in the class you are studying in?" - a survey was organized. During the 5-day period, 80,400 participants were closely acquainted with the question, and 27,900 of them participated in the direct voting process. The results were as follows (Figure 2).

The results of the survey show that the majority of schools in the country have 20 to 35 students per class. In general, 78% of respondents confirm this. In particular, there are classes with 36 to 40 students, and even more than 40 students. Ten percent of participants reported that such classes existed. In the public education system, this 10 percent, or 2,790 votes, is also a big indicator. This indicates the current state of the population (number of students) by region, as well as the need to increase the capacity of schools by studying the growth process, forecasting, or establishing new schools.



*Source: Author's development based on surveys (the numbers are in human form)*

Today, it is unfortunate that the number of students in each class of secondary schools reaches 30-35, and in districts and cities - 40-45. So what are the requirements in our legislation in this regard?

According to the Regulation approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 15, 2017 No 140 "On approval of the Regulation on General Secondary Education", the number of students in each class should not exceed 35. Also, according to sanitary rules and requirements, the course duration is 45 minutes. If there are 35-40 students in a class, it is not easy to cover all students in 45 minutes. That is, if there are 20-25 students in the class, the lesson will be more effective. In this case, you can work with each student individually, explaining the topic in more detail. Although, of course, much depends on the experience and qualifications of the teacher. However, if the number of students is very large and time is limited, the quality of teaching will decrease, regardless of the teacher's level. In this case, how can young teachers who have not yet gained experience pass a big test? After all, calming children down and getting them involved in the subject is not an easy task.

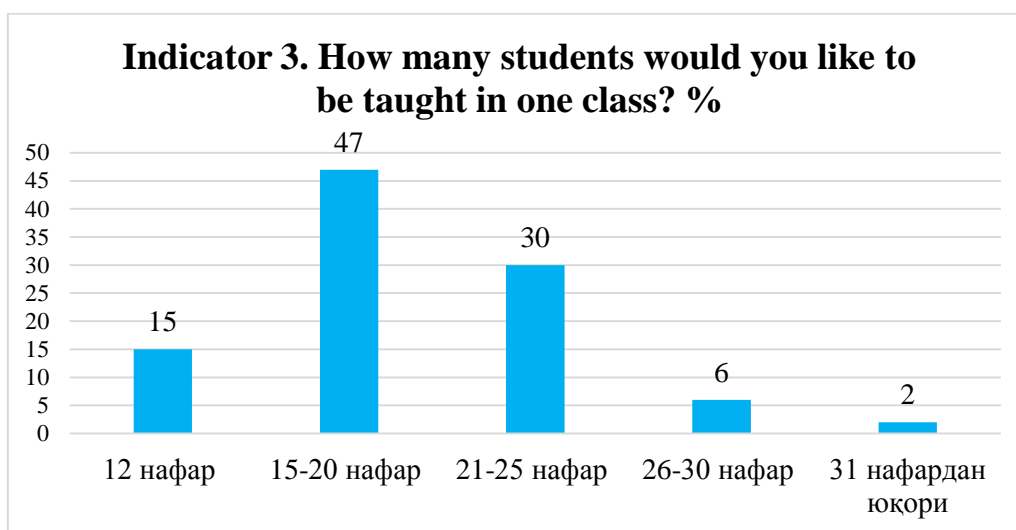
The question arises if there are 35 students in a class, even if each of them is given 1 minute, then it will take 35 minutes. So when should you talk to students, explain the topic, and reinforce

it?

Also, "How many students would you like to see in one class?" - A survey was also prepared. Over 5 days, 81,600 participants read the question, and 30,000 of them voted. The results are as follows (Figure 3):

In the next survey, 77% of respondents chose the option of 15 to 25 students per class. This means that it is preferable for teachers not to have more than 25 students in the classroom, which frees teachers from overload and creates favorable conditions for quality teaching.

A new statistical analysis of long-term research data on mathematics and science teaching has shown that in low-enrollment classes, students' good knowledge and success are not always related to the number of students.



*(the numbers are in human form)*

The smaller number of students in a class at school is usually very much appreciated, especially by parents. With smaller classes, teachers can easily maintain control and pay more attention to each student. Thus, most countries limit the maximum number of students in a class, i.e., to 30 students.

The current situation in the classrooms does not allow the teacher to work with students individually. However, it is not necessary to give an extra burden to students who have studied science well, and to help those who are lagging behind. A class with 40 students is less likely to have a highly educated student. Psychologists unanimously approve that there will be 25 students in the class. It turns out that the number of schools should be doubled.

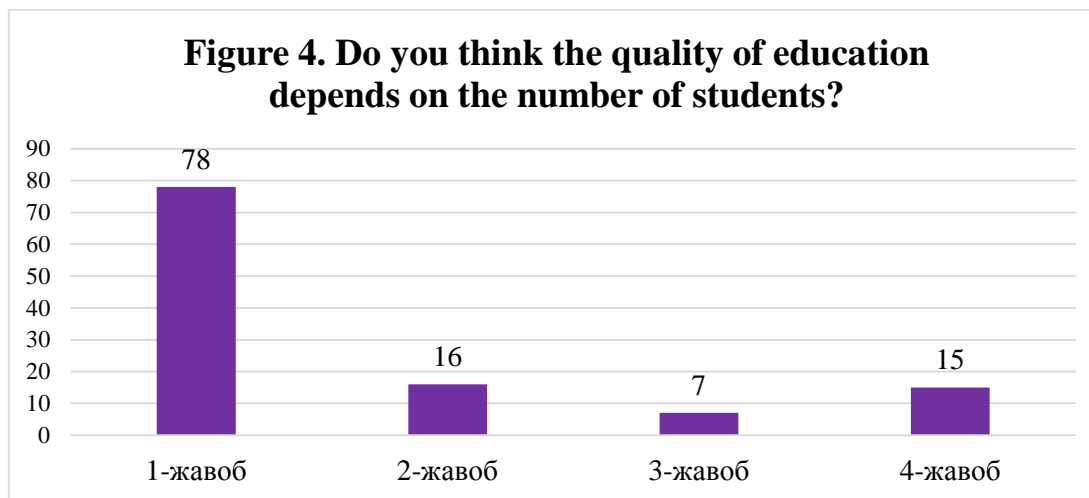
As an integral part of the above survey, "Do you think the quality of education depends on the number of students?" - a survey was organized. Over 5 days, 82,200 participants read the question, of which 7,675 participated in the voting process (indicator 4).

Answer 1. Yes, the smaller the number of students, the better it will be to educate them;

Answer 2. No, if quality education is provided by teachers, the large number of students will not interfere either;

Answer 3. I have heard that 40-50 years ago, even though the number of students in the class was large, quality education was provided;

Answer 4. They left their opinion that the high quality of education does not depend on the number of students at all.



In the last question of the survey, 78% of respondents believe that the smaller the number of students, the better the education for them, the lower the number of students will have a positive impact on the quality of education.

**CLEAR CONCLUSIONS AND PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.** Improving the quality of education in secondary schools is the main goal of reforms in this area, and it is natural that objective and subjective problems will arise in the implementation of this goal. As a subjective problem - the level of knowledge and professionalism of the teacher, this problem can be overcome as a result of the teacher's constant work on himself. But one of the objective problems with the quality of education is that the large number of students in the classroom can negatively affect the quality of education.

We focused our attention on this objective problem, the survey participants also confirmed that this is a problem and noted that more than 25 students in a class would lead to a deterioration in the quality of education. This means that the maximum number of students in a class should not exceed 25.

Another question is why we are building housing on a large scale, but we are lagging behind when it comes to building secondary schools. The reason for the overcrowding of some classes is the outflow of qualified teachers to the central districts and cities, as well as the growing desire of many parents to send their children to Russian-language schools. In some secondary schools, education is provided in Russian. At this school, enrollment exceeds the limit. There are many reasons for this:

First, it is explained by the desire of the parents to give the child to this school, to a certain teacher. At the same time, they don't even want to hear comments about classrooms being overcrowded.

Second, there is a lack of classrooms in schools. The solution to this problem is to build additional buildings.

According to the results of the analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Parents tend to send their children only to certain schools.
- The number of students in schools in regional centers and cities has significantly exceeded the norm, and the coverage of children in schools in remote areas is insufficient. As a result, there is no necessary infrastructure, and as a result, many are still moving to the centers.

Another situation is that parents want their children to be taught by a particular teacher because there are unfortunately teachers who do not have enough qualifications to admit. It is known that the transition to 11-year education has taken place, but the necessary infrastructure for these purposes is not yet fully ready.

In addition, in order to further improve the quality of education, we believe that the results will be significantly improved if students are taught in groups in the native language and literature, mathematics, chemistry, physics.

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